preparation of bid documents and assistance in bidding. There was no response to the bids despite the proposals being invited twice. Limited enquires were floated from some of the international consultants working in India for the third time.

There was no response. Therefore, it was decided to split the services into smaller segments. In the first step bids have been invited for fixing the expressway alignment and the work is already awarded to a consultant for fixing of alignment. In the subsequent stages feasibility studies will be taken up.

(b) The various phases of planning and implementation are as under:—

(i) Fixing the alignment.

(ii) Feasibility studies and facility planning.

(iii) Preparation of land plan schedules.

(iv) Acquisition of land.

(v) Preparation of bidding documents.

(vi) Appraisal and approval of the project by Government.

(vii) Invitation of bids.

(viii) Award of concession.

(ix) Financial close.

(x) Commencement of Expressway construction.

(xi) Completion of the expressway and start of commercial operation.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, it is expected that the land acquisition process will start sometime in the middle of 2009-10.

(e) The construction work is likely to start by the end of year 2011.

International shipyards in Gujarat

3352. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of Government for setting up two international size shipyards — one each on East Coast and West Coast of India;

(b) whether any Committee was constituted to identify suitable location;

(c) if so, the recommendations of the Committee with regard to the locations on the west coast;

(d) the action taken by Government on the recommendations; and

(e) the time by when the location for international shipyard for Gujarat is likely to be finalised.

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal under the National Maritime Development Programme of Department of Shipping for setting up of two international size shipyards,

one on the East Coast and the other in the West Coast. A Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Indian Ports Association for facilitating setting up of two international size shipyards. The report of the Committee has been received.

The Committee has identified setting up of international size shipyard at the following locations on the West Coast:

(1) Mundra in Gujarat

(2) Pipavav in Gujarat

(d) and (e) Government of India has nominated Mumbai Port Trust and Ennore Port Limited to function as the Nodal Agencies for setting up of shipyards on the West Coast of India and the East Coast of India respectively. The nodal agencies have been entrusted with the responsibility/job of engaging consultants. The nodal agencies have been authorized to appoint consultants with clear terms of reference who *inter alia*, would identify 3 or 4 alternative sites each for setting up of shipyard on West Coast and East Coast of India respectively and also suggest optimal locations with detailed justification and also for preparing, *inter alia*, detailed project reports, documents for request for proposals/ qualifications etc. for setting up two international size shipyards. As such, no definite time frame can be set for finalization of location of the projects.

Six laning of Delhi-Dehradun NH

3353. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether approval has been accorded to the project for six-laning of Delhi-Dehradun National Highway (NH);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has been seized of the importance and urgency of widening of Delhi-Dehradun NH especially keeping in view the requirement of smooth conduct of Mahakumbha scheduled at Haridwar in 2010;

(d) if so, the details of priority accorded, if any, to this NH project;

(e) whether commencement of project has occurred already;

(f) if so, the details thereof indicating the expected date of its completion; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (g) Delhi-Dehradun stretch of NH-58 and 72 has been identified for 4/6-laning under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase III on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) mode based on the criteria of high density of traffic and connectivity of State capitals with corridors of NHDP Phase I and II. The present status of this stretch is as under:

(i) Delhi-Meerut section of NH-58 is already 4-laned and preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for 6-laning is in progress.

(ii) The work of 4-laning of Meerut-Muzaffarnagar section of NH-58 on BOT basis is in progress and targeted for completion by March, 2009.